

**FUM01**

***FUMBLING***  
***VOLUME ONE***  
**WILLIAM ANTHONY SHEA**

**BAD DOG PUBLISHING**

FUMBLING  
VOLUME ONE

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To Fergal,  
For being there when I needed a friend...





## **FOREWORD**

Welcome to Fumbling Volume One. This comprises a compilation of the complete works of Fumbling originally conceived as part works. Presented herein are what were produced as Issues One to Six, but the content contains so much more now as scenes have been enhanced, additional scenes have been added, and this collection presents two additional Troll adventures that did not appear in the periodical releases. The covers from each issue have also been included. For all those who contributed to the production, promotion, distribution, and enjoyment of Fumbling, I offer my profound gratitude in what has become a labour of love and another obsession to add to those that already haunt my dreams.

Fumbling provides a graphic look behind the scenes into the lives of a group of gamers who also dally in the publishing business. They are led in their endeavours by the Master Sage, a guiding force who sometimes encroaches too far into personal aspects of their lives, but often with the best of intentions.

Fumbling explores some adult themes, and you will find partial nudity within, and not just from the Trolls. The art may seem simplistic, but this is how the Characters were conceived.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

My thanks as always to the Knights of Misspent Youth (KOMY) for the years of inspiration leading to many of the stories contained herein.

A special appreciation to Michael O'Mahony for primary editing of Fumbling Volume One.

## **FUMBLING VOLUME ONE DESIGN**

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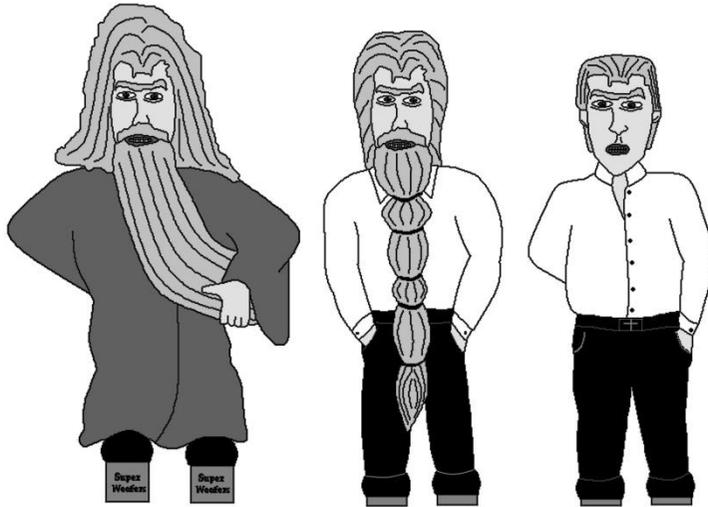
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## **BAD DOG PUBLISHING WEBSITE**

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## SAGEY INTRODUCTIONS

Bad Dog Publishing (BDP) has a number of regular (and irregular) staff. The publishing company began with the Master Sage and six core Associates, almost like Knightshade the Role Playing Game started out with a Grandmaster and six core Professions. Master Sage is presented here in his three guises as time passes and he transforms throughout the stories. Both Durex Maximus Troll and Harriet Chambers were not originally part of the BDP team and they had no direct roles within the company at the beginning. In time, they become an intrinsic part of the gaming group and the company.



### **Master Sage (Editor-in-Chief and Games Master)**

All time guru and self-proclaimed deity of Trollhaven (headquarters of the gaming group). The Master Sage is greatly feared (in his own mind) and wields power over his lowly Trolls. He is the Editor-in-Chief of BDP and hoards volumes of gaming material, props, and miniatures. He runs most of the games and interferes in the lives of the others, often by controlling the destiny of their Characters in the games presented every week, whether they enjoy it or not. Most of the Trolls also work for the Master Sage in Bad Dog Publishing, and thus, there is no escape...

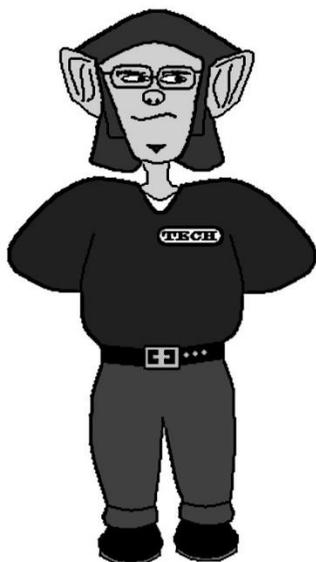
The Master Sage runs most of his games in Trollhaven, a purpose-built gaming room out back of his house that has all the conveniences of being in the house without disturbing anyone with the noise that often emanates from within when the games get out of hand. The Master Sage oversees the Trolls who work on various gaming and periodical projects. They are avid convention attendees and will set off by road, sea or air to reach their favourite events. At the beginning of this issue, Duplex is currently on suspension for an infraction of the rules that happened in a previous game, and Durex has been banned for a protracted number of months...

## Wimpy Troll (Associate Editor)



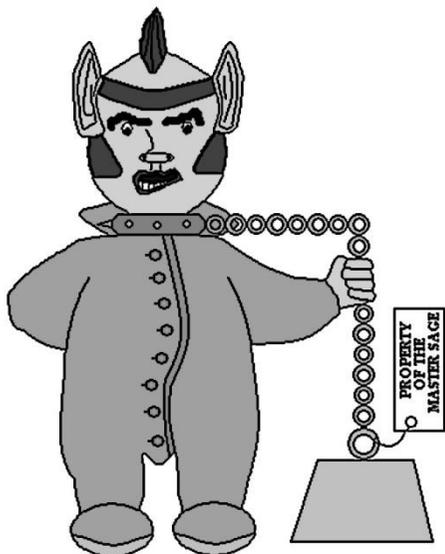
Wimpy Troll was the first apprentice taken on by the Master Sage and is his most trusted ally in the games and in Bad Dog Publishing. He spent years climbing the ranks to become Associate Editor of Fumble, having transitioned through every role from Gofer to Copy Boy (when they were separate roles). Wimpy has a quirky sense of humour that is not always appreciated by the other Trolls in Trollhaven and his jokes are likely to elicit groans of disapproval from his cohorts as much as they provoke laughter. He has been known to disappear during conventions to seek out special material, which he proclaims is ‘for others’ and that he only looks at the interesting articles presented in these smut-mags before passing them on. Rumours abound that he is a victim of middle-age-spread and wears a girdle to keep it hidden. This titbit has never been proven. Wimpy currently works on overseeing editing on all major BDP projects, but also fills in as an editor on Fumble Newszine from time to time when the Master Sage is busy creating more works for his team to process through proof reading and editing.

## Webster Troll (Webmaster and Technical Editor)



Webster is responsible for overseeing all technical issues that arise in Bad Dog Publishing, including website updates, distributing staff e-mail addresses and enhancing product graphics. He is also believed to be the Master Sage’s spy and is alleged to have made ‘Old Whitey’ aware of the nefarious activities of Julius Troll in particular. He is an avid sci-fi/sci-fantasy fan. Webster is meticulous in taking notes and making maps during games. He often quotes rules, and will even do so to the Master Sage. He has a mean streak when riled and has been known to throw miniatures and props from time to time. Thus far, he has only been banished on one occasion by the Master Sage for such an infraction, while others in the group have had far lengthier suspensions from the games for less serious disturbances.

### **Gully Troll (Agony Unkle and Distribution)**



Gully Troll has been part of Bad Dog Publishing almost as long as Wimpy. However, his propensity for gossip has made him the Trollhaven agony aunt (or Unkle) and set him to take up the role of a regular columnist in Fumble. He may have been the one who actually provided the dirt on the Master Sage being exploited by Julius. Gully is also responsible for BDP's distribution and coordinates product to be delivered to events. In the games he generally favours playing Characters that are less than scrupulous, though he usually stops short of causing any real harm to his compatriots. Still, they have adopted the axiom 'watch you back and your belongings' when he is around. Gully will most often side with those in the group that appear to have the upper hand and is not above switching sides when the tide turns.

### **Julius Troll (Junior Editor and Proof Reader)**



Julius is part of a three-Troll tag team that enjoy making the life (and games) of the Master Sage difficult. It is generally believed that he became Junior Editor of Fumble through some foul means and may in fact be blackmailing the Master Sage. His elevation to the position of Junior Editor overseeing all projects within BDP has only served to add to these speculations. Julius has been caught on several occasions delving through Old Whitey's secret library to sneak previews of the games and to gain some advantage. The Master Sage, on becoming aware of that particular rumour, has taken to writing two scenarios for this very reason, one real and one false, just to keep ahead of the game. Julius is a dice-monger. The dice are everything in the game (except of course for beer and pizza). He has at least twenty different sets – each serving a particular purpose depending on the game being played.

## Duplex Troll (Distribution and Promotion)



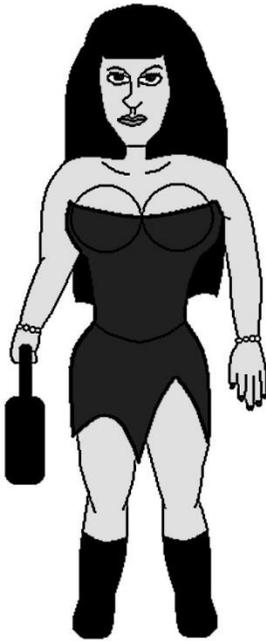
Second of the three-Troll tag team, Duplex has spent more time out of the game than in it for actually being caught by the Master Sage in the act of some transgression, and is often unable to rely on plausible deniability to save him from Old Whitey's wrath. Duplex is an avid beer guzzling, pizza chomping, dice man and he is a stickler for the rules, but only insofar as they serve him and the other Players in the games. He always insists on copies of all handouts referred to in games and consigns these to a special folder that not even the Master Sage has been able to see inside. Along with official material, he holds every note ever passed to him in a zipped and locked pencil case. He also has an affinity for hoarding magical items when playing Knightshade the Roleplaying Game, locking them away in his most precious item 'The Bag of Wonder'. Some of the items have never seen the light of day again after being sequestered within, much to the chagrin of the Master Sage and the other members of the group.

## Fidget Troll (Copy Boy and Chief Gofer)



Last of the three-Troll tag team, Fidget is a serious collector in his own right and the prop man for the Trolls. He is on the lowest rung in the ladder in Bad Dog Publishing, but an intrinsic part of the gaming group. In the games, he yearns to find the ultimate sword in the Master Sage's game and suspects that Duplex may be hoarding one away in the 'The Bag of Wonder'. However, he has never been able to catch a glimpse of such an item, even when he pretended to be dead and Duplex placed him inside for a whole game. Perhaps it was because Duplex drew the strings so tight on the Bag and suffocated Fidget's Character long before he was able to conduct his search or the fact that he insisted on stabbing the body seventeen times just to make sure. Fidget is currently the Copy Boy and Chief (only) Gofer for BDP and figures the only way he has of achieving a promotion is if one of the other Troll's dies.

## Harriet Chambers (Freelance Artist, Model and BestCon Coordinator)



Harriet Chambers is the BestCon Coordinator for the Vampyr Event and also brings her talents to act as host for other conventions locally. She has been a long-time friend of Wimpy but is currently dating Durex Maximus at the opening of this issue. Harriet is an avid fan of the fantasy and horror genres but favours the latter. She likes the dress-up associated with cosplay (Costume Play) and Live Role-playing but is seeking to join a serious gaming group. She longs to be accepted by the die-hard Roleplayers she encounters from time to time but they never take her seriously and will not accept her in the games they play. Harriet was a fashion and art model before she became a Con-Coordinator and has a huge fan following. She is an artist in her own right and is trained in marketing and promotion. She has also had a crush on Wimpy for years, but did not tell him because he never showed any interest in her... until now.

## Durex Maximus Troll (Freelance Reporter)



Durex Maximus is currently enjoying a lifetime suspension from the games of the Master Sage. This came about not only as a result of aggravating Old Whitey but also in causing such harm to the rest of the Trolls as to get him physically cast out of Trollhaven. Durex arrived at one of their convention outings a day before the others and spent their entire club fund on beer and launching his own Roleplaying Game 'Maximus,' of which there has only ever been one copy produced. The Trolls figure this is probably a blessing. However, the sheer amount of promotional material he distributed accounted for over half the fund, with the rest going to drown his sorrows, though there is some suspicion that the 'girlfriend' he had in tow may have actually contributed in no small way to the dissolution of the remaining funds. Durex still remains a casual member of the BDP Staff, returning for freelance work. However, no one has forgiven him in the last five years enough to help him get the suspension lifted. He still hangs around and is often seen staring in the windows of Trollhaven but has never been permitted to pass over the threshold even

when the weather isn't fit for the most despicable of souls. Durex remains a pariah as of this moment, but who knows, maybe Old Whitey will mellow with time...



*BAD DOG PUBLISHING PRESENTS*

# FUMBLING

ISSUE ONE



**WILLIAM ANTHONY SHEA**

Welcome to Issue One of Fumbling. I always love new beginnings, and this is just what that is, a new beginning. From Bad Dog Publishing and the people who bring you Fumble Newszine. You are invited to a whole new experience, as we take a look behind the scenes at the Trolls and the games they play, depicting the staff of Bad Dog Publishing, their gaming activities, and the curious lives they lead. The initial Characters in this bold new venture are presented below and we hope you have as much fun reading Fumbling as we had in producing it. Welcome to Issue One. Will there be an Issue Two, Three and...

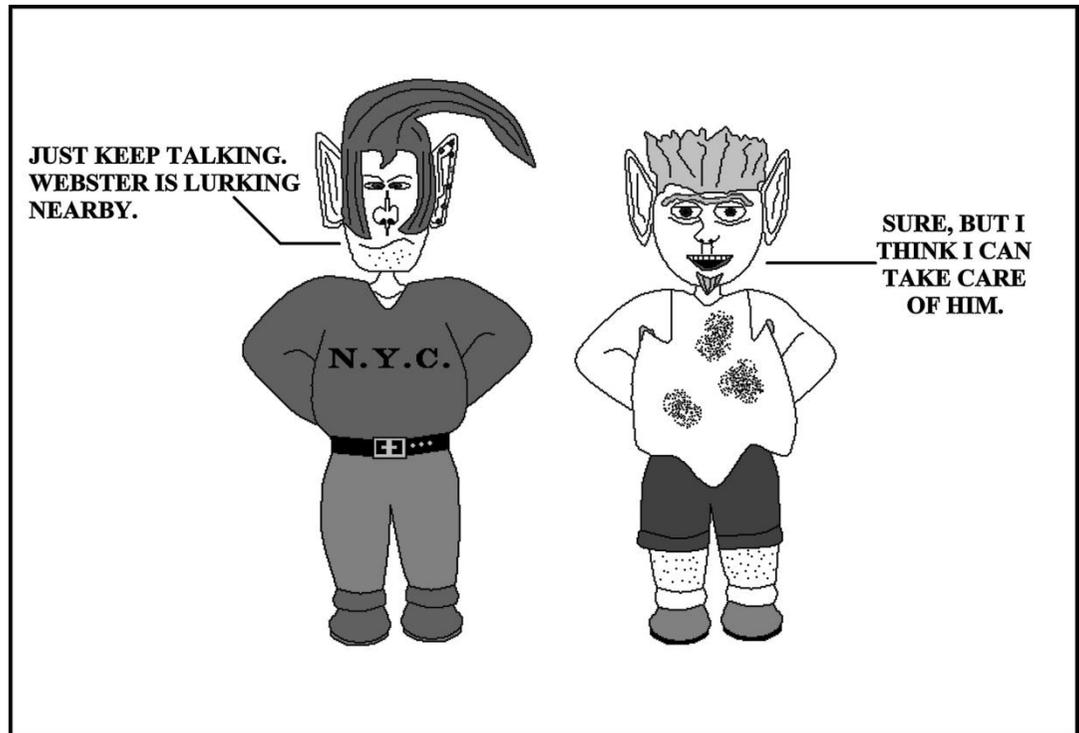
Well, you will just have to wait and see, won't you? For now, enjoy, and keep on gaming...

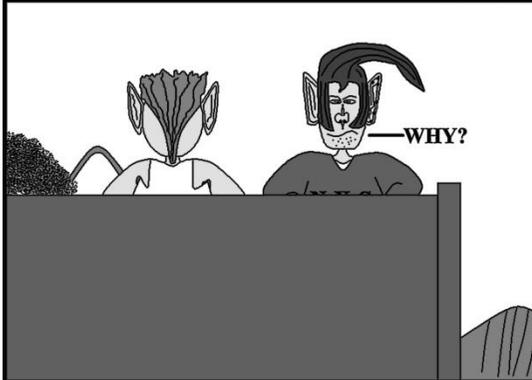
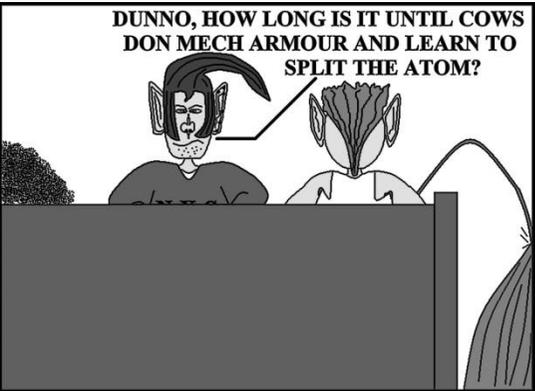
Master Sage.

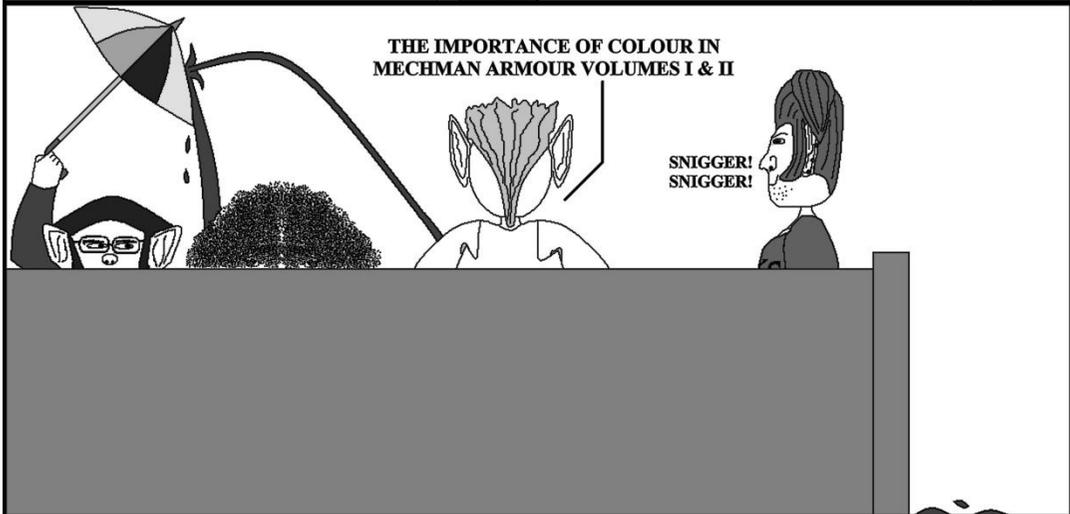
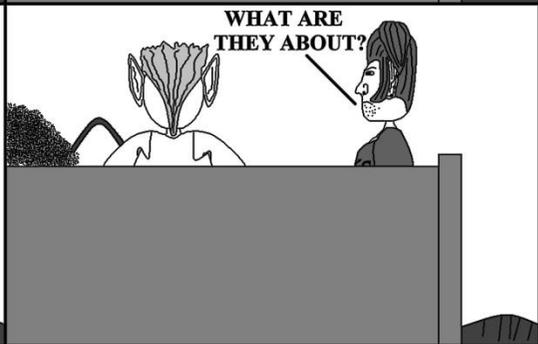
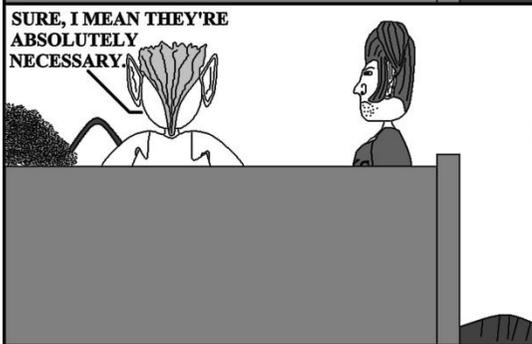
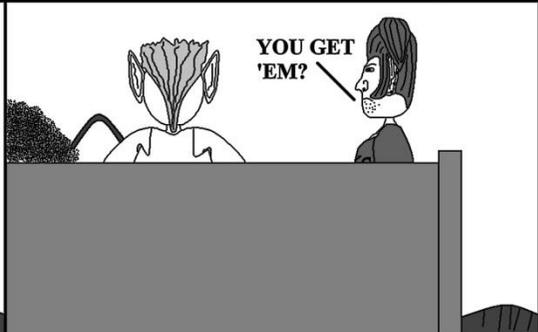
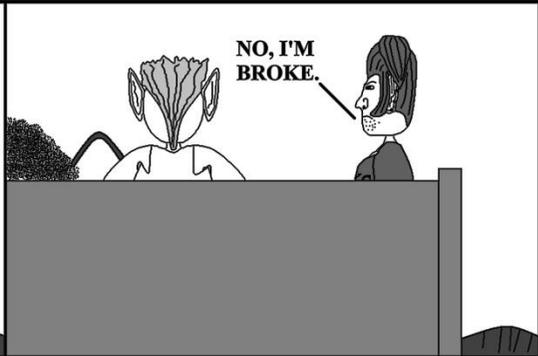
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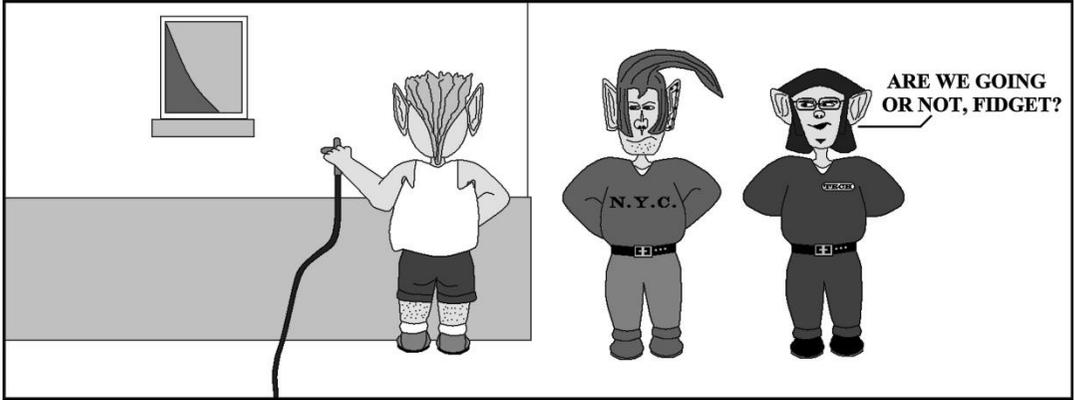
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**BEFORE THE GAME**









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# FUMBLING

**ISSUE TWO**

**HI GUYS! HAVE YOU MET MY GIRLFRIEND, HARRIET?**



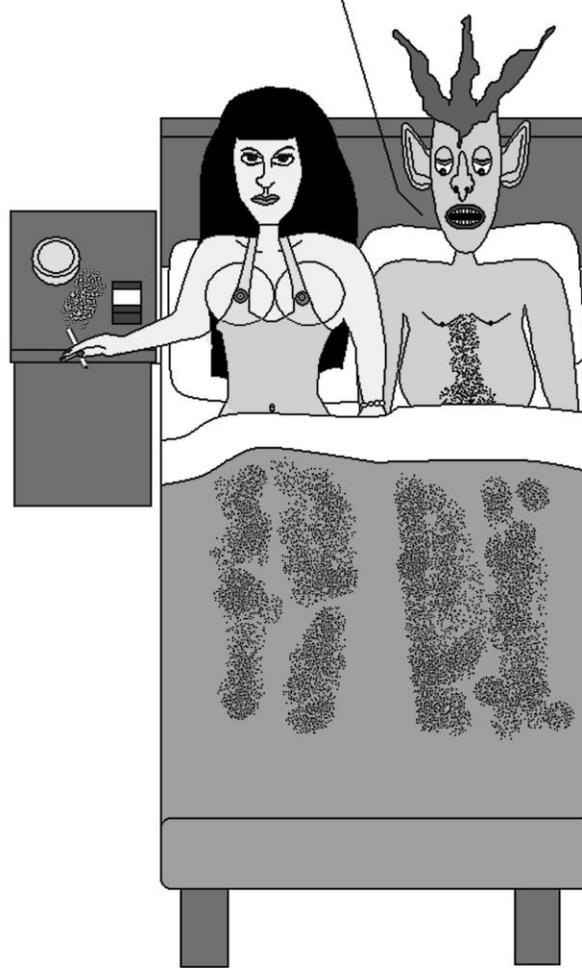
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# FUMBLING

**ISSUE THREE**

**SO, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO TELL DUREX?**



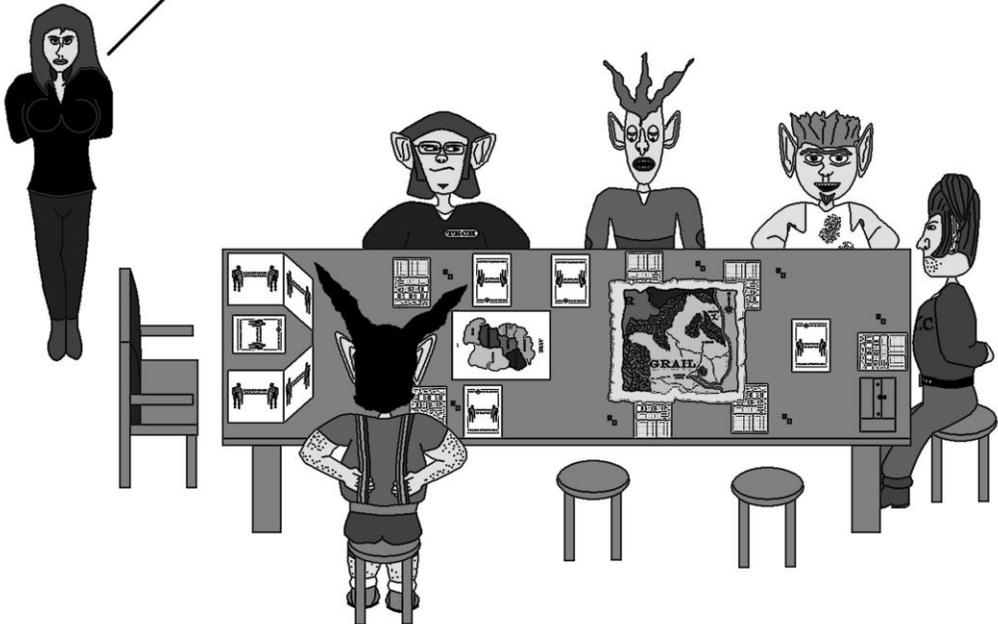
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# FUMBLING

**ISSUE FOUR**

**CAN I GET YOU BOYS ANYTHING WHILE YOU WAIT?**

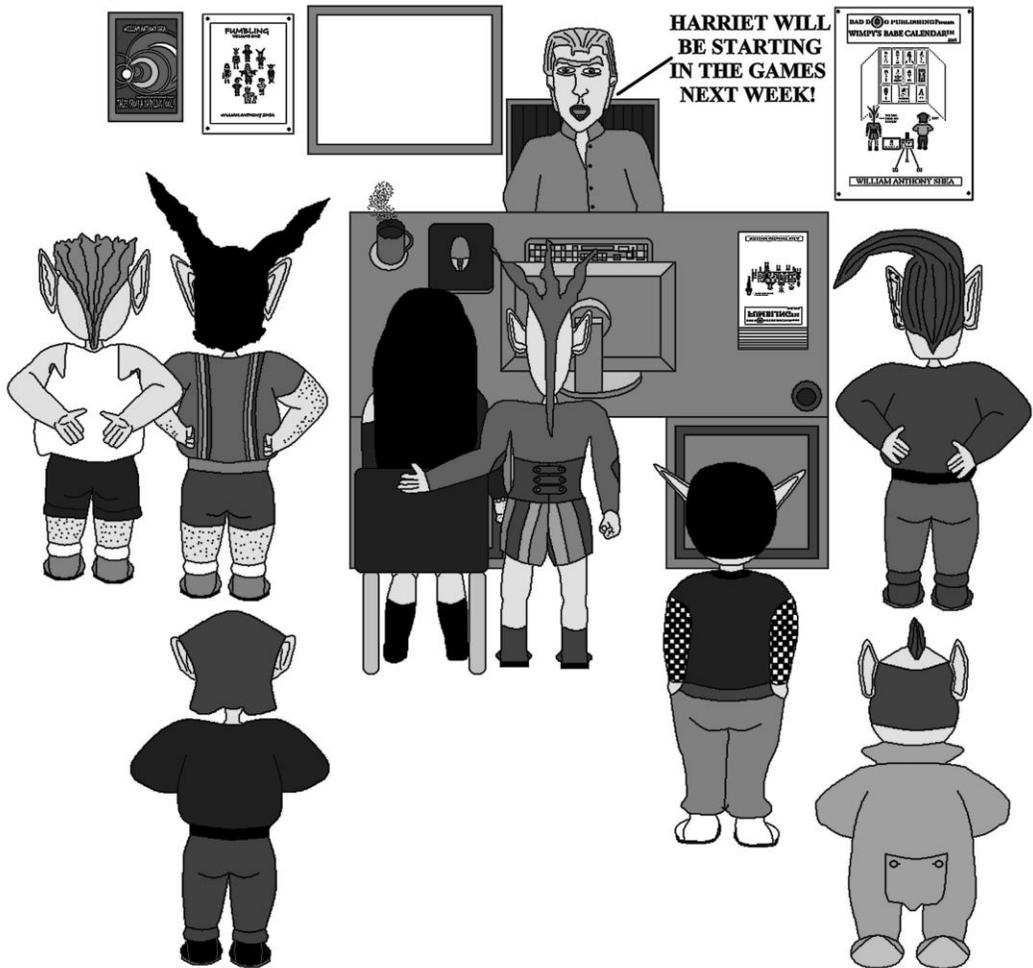


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# FUMBLING

**ISSUE FIVE**



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# FUMBLING

SPECIAL EDITION

ISSUE SIX



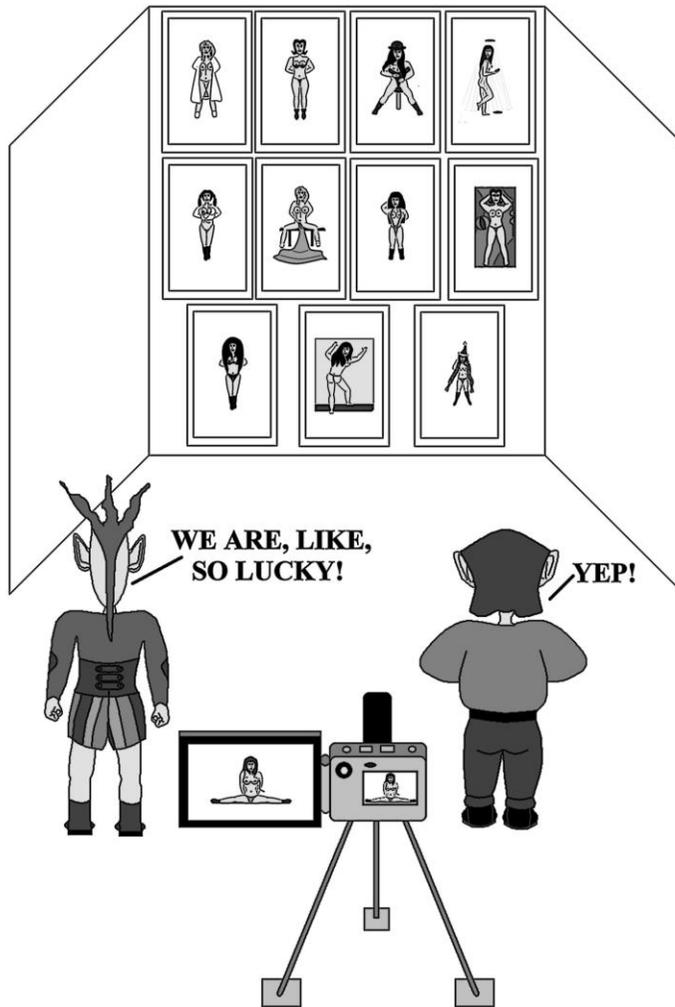
**DEPARTMENT X**

**WILLIAM ANTHONY SHEA**

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# WIMPY'S

**BABE CALENDAR PHOTOSHOOT**



**WILLIAM ANTHONY SHEA**

**AVAILABLE FROM BAD DOG PUBLISHING**

**BY WILLIAM ANTHONY SHEA**

***KNIGHTSHADE THE ROLE PLAYING GAME***

THE INITIATE'S TOME

THE GRANDMASTER'S TOME

THE LOREMASTER'S TOME – NYR

THE QUESTMASTER'S TOME – NYR

TALES FROM A DARKLING POOL

RETURN TO A DARKLING POOL

A DARKLING POOL AGAIN

BEYOND A DARKLING POOL

RIPPLES FROM A DARKLING POOL - NYR

NIGHTMARE

VAMPIRE

FALLEN

REMNANT - NYR

SAGA OF THE SENTENIAL:

BOOK ONE – CAULDRON OF TROUBLE

BOOK TWO – FOR THE LAND THAT FELL

BOOK THREE – HOUSE OF SILMARIN

KILLING TIME

FUMBLING VOLUME ONE

**BY LSHEA**

IMMORAL DAWN

DE CORK BOIs – NYR\*

\*NYR = Not Yet Released.



Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in the lives of a group of gamers? What about a group of gamers who also dally in the business of publishing? Well, wonder no more. Fumbling Volume One presents a look into the lives of the Trolls of Bad Dog Publishing, their loves, their hates, their eclectic idiosyncrasies and the mayhem they create when interacting with a world that may never truly understand them...

BDP ID: FUM01FUMBLINGBDP02